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Testimony to the Little Hoover Commission
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GOOD MORNINGMY NAME IS WAYNE STRUMPFER AND I AM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING. IT IS MY PLEASURE TO BE IN FRONT OF THIS COMMITTEE THIS MORNING.

THROUGHOUT MY LEGAL CAREER, I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND OFFICES, SO I UNDERSTAND AND WELCOME THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR OCJP TO BE REVIEWED BY THE LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION.

I HAVE BEEN THE INTERIM DIRECTOR AT OCJP SINCE NOVEMBER 1, 2002. PRIOR TO THAT I HAVE SERVED AS THE ASSISTANT CHIEF DEPUTY AT THE OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT THE FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION. I ALSO SPENT FIVE YEARS AT THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE SPECIALIZING IN PUBLIC OFFICIAL CORRUPTION, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, AND LOCAL GRAND JURY INVESTIGATIONS.

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, OCJP ADMINISTERS APPROXIMATELY 1,200 GRANTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA TOTALING OVER TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY MILLION DOLLARS IN BOTH STATE FUNDS AND FEDERAL FUNDS. WE DO THIS WITH 139 EMPLOYEES.

BUT OUR OFFICE IS MORE THAN JUST A FUNDING PASS-THROUGH ENTITY. IT IS MY INTENTION TO CONTINUE OUR FINE GRANT ADMINISTRATION AND AT THE SAME TIME STRENGTHEN OUR COMMITMENT TO PLANNING IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE FIELD. OCJP HAS THE UNIQUE ABILITY TO SERVE AS A CENTRALIZED INFORMATION GATHERING AND SHARING ENTITY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, DISTRICT ATTORNEYS, AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS.

OCJP CAN STILL IMPROVE ON PLANNING IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE FIELD. I HAVE BEGUN WORKING WITH MEMBERS OF THE CALIFORNIA COUNCIL ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE TO CREATE A STRATEGIC/POLICY PLAN FOR THE COMING FISCAL YEAR. THIS PLAN WILL GIVE OCJP AND CCCJ A ROADMAP FOR IMPROVEMENT AND DIRECTION FOR THE FUTURE. OCJP WILL IMPROVE OUR PUBLIC OUTREACH BY GATHERING BEST PRACTICES STUDIES AND DISSEMINATING REPORTS THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO INTERESTED PARTIES. WE WILL EMPOWER LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO

DISCUSS CRIMINAL JUSTICE CONCERNS AND BECOME PROACTIVE WITH COOPERATING WITH COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TO FIND SOLUTIONS.

ALTHOUGH WE REALIZE THE BUDGET RESTRAINTS WE FACE, I AM DEDICATED TO BRINGING THE “P” BACK TO OCJP. OUR OFFICE MUST BE MORE PROACTIVE AND MORE DEDICATED TO ASSISTING ENTITIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO IMPROVE THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. TO A GREAT EXTENT, THIS IS A MINDSET. UNDER GOVERNOR DAVIS AND MY LEADERSHIP, OCJP IS MORE SERVICE-ORIENTED, MORE COLLABORATIVE-MINDED WITH OTHER STATE ENTITIES, AND BETTER ORGANIZED TO HELP ALL COMMUNITIES BECOME SAFER AND MORE EFFECTIVE IN PREVENTING AND FIGHTING CRIME.

CURRENTLY, WE ARE INVOLVED IN MANY PROJECTS THAT PROMOTE PLANNING IN THE STATE:

- OCJP OVERSEES MANY TASK FORCES, COMMITTEES, AND ADVISORY GROUPS. OCJP STAFF COORDINATE THESE VARIED GROUPS AND OFTEN CHAIRS THEM AS WELL. EXAMPLES INCLUDE THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA) TASK FORCE, STATEWIDE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) ON SEXUAL ASSAULT, STATEWIDE ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) ON JUVENILE JUSTICE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION, HIGH TECHNOLOGY CRIMES ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND CHILDREN’S JUSTICE ACT (CJA) TASK FORCE. THESE GROUPS ASSIST OCJP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATE-OF-THE-ART APPROACHES FOR THE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND VICTIM SERVICES PROGRAM AND PROMOTE INTERDISCIPLINARY INFORMATION EXCHANGE.
- OCJP MAY ALSO BE CHARGED WITH SERVING AS THE LEAD OF SPECIAL AD HOC COMMITTEES AND TASK FORCES SUCH AS THE SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TASK FORCE SIGNED INTO LAW BY THE GOVERNOR IN 1999. THIS TASK FORCE WAS ESTABLISHED FOLLOWING THE COLUMBINE HIGH SCHOOL SHOOTING AND WAS CHARGED WITH REVIEWING SCHOOL SAFETY IN CALIFORNIA AND REPORTING BACK TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE WITH SPECIFIC FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.
- OCJP ALSO PARTICIPATES AS A MEMBER ON OTHER STATE DEPARTMENTS’ TASK FORCES AND COMMITTEES, BRINGING OUR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE TO THE TABLE. EXAMPLES INCLUDE THE U.S. ATTORNEY’S OFFICE VICTIM/WITNESS CENTER’S HATE CRIMES TASK FORCE, THE CALIFORNIA

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S ASSOCIATION'S VICTIMS' RIGHTS AND ELDER ABUSE COMMITTEES, CAL-GANG.

- OCJP DEVELOPS PUBLICATIONS FOR STATEWIDE DISTRIBUTION SUCH AS FIELD TRAINING CURRICULUM, VIDEOS, AND PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION. THESE PUBLICATIONS ASSIST IN THE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM MODELS AND CURRENT AND EMERGING RESEARCH AS WELL AS PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. EXAMPLES INCLUDE THE VICTIM WITNESS ASSISTANCE CENTERS' CRISIS RESPONSE GUIDE, CALIFORNIA MEDICAL PROTOCOL FOR THE EXAMINATION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE VICTIMS, AND MCGRUFF SAFETY TIPS.
- OCJP PROVIDES TRAINING AND CONFERENCES TO THE FIELD ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND VICTIM SERVICES THROUGH ITS STATEWIDE GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC SAFETY OR VICTIM SERVICES, USUALLY HELD EVERY OTHER YEAR.
- OCJP STAFF WILL ASSIST THE FIELD IN THE EVENT OF A CRISIS. MANY OF OUR STAFF HAVE PREVIOUS FIELD EXPERIENCE AND COME FROM BACKGROUNDS SUCH AS LAW ENFORCEMENT AS OFFICERS, INVESTIGATORS, PROBATION OFFICERS, AND VICTIM SERVICES AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OR RAPE CRISIS ADVOCATES AND COUNSELORS, SOCIAL WORKERS, ETC. FOR INSTANCE, IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE SHOOTINGS AT THE NEVADA COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH CARE FACILITY AND DENNY'S RESTAURANT, MEMBERS OF THE VICTIM/WITNESS BRANCH ASSISTED IN THE COORDINATION WITH OUTSIDE AGENCIES TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN SETTING UP A CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM THAT PROVIDED IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION FOR THE COMMUNITY AND IDENTIFIED THE NEEDS OF THE VICTIMS AS WELL AS MADE REFERRALS TO APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND SERVICES FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES.
- PRESENTATIONS, UPON REQUEST BY THE PUBLIC OR LEGISLATORS FOR THEIR DISTRICT OFFICES REGARDING OCJP'S PROGRAMS AND HOW TO PURSUE FUNDING.
- STAFFING BOOTHS AT COMMUNITY EVENTS SUCH AS VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK AT THE CAPITOL TO DISTRIBUTE INFORMATION ON VICTIM SERVICES.

ADDITIONALLY, JUST RECENTLY, OUR OFFICE HAS ACCOMPLISHED MANY THINGS:

FIRST, WE HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN ACCORD WITH THE BUREAU OF STATE AUDITS REPORT FROM LAST YEAR

WE HAVE IMPROVED OUR APPLICATION PROCESS

WE HAVE IMPROVED OUR APPEALS PROCESS

WE ARE IMPROVING OUR OVERSIGHT OF GRANTEEES

SECOND, WE HAVE MADE STRIDES TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE FIELD WHERE NECESSARY.

I HAVE EMPHASIZED TO STAFF OUR JOB AS A SERVICE PROVIDER

I HAVE VISITED VICTIM SHELTERS AND LOCAL LAW ENF.

I HAVE OPENED COMMUNICATION LINES WITH MY OFFICE

THIRD, WE HAVE TASKED AN EMPLOYEE WITH THE DUTIES OF FINDING ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES TO HELP GRANTEEES WHO ARE FACING PENDING CUTS. WE ALSO HOPE TO BEGIN WORKING WITH THE GRANTEEES AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO CREATE NEW FUNDING SOURCES FOR THE FIELD DURING THE BUDGET CRISIS.

FOURTH, WE ARE REVIEWING OCJP ORGANIZATION PLAN TO DETERMINE WHERE TO BEST PLACE OUR RESOURCES. THIS PLAN IS BEING DEVELOPED WITH INPUT FROM ALL STAFF.

AGAIN, IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE IN FRONT OF THIS COMMISSION AND I CONTINUE TO MAKE EFFORTS TO MAKE OCJP A BETTER ENTITY FOR A SAFER CALIFORNIA. THANK YOU.